

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as currently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 3-11, and 21-31 are currently pending. The present Amendment amends Claims 1, 3, and 4; cancels Claim 2 without prejudice or disclaimer; and adds Claims 21-31. The changes and addition to the claims are supported by the originally filed application. No new matter has been added.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ichige et al. (Japanese Patent No. 2003-51557, herein "Ichige") and Claims 2-11 were objected to but noted as allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicant appreciatively acknowledges the indication of allowable subject matter in the claims.

Independent Claim 1 is amended to incorporate allowable Claim 2. Claim 2 is thus cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Therefore, since amended independent Claim 1 is allowable Claim 2 rewritten in independent form, Applicant respectfully submits that amended independent Claim 1 and dependent Claims 3-11 are now allowable.

In order to vary the scope of protection recited in the claims, new Claims 21-31 are added. New Claims 21-31 find non-limiting support in the disclosure as originally filed, for example in original Claims 1-11. Therefore, the changes to the claims are not believed to raise a question of new matter.¹ Further, independent Claim 21 corresponds to allowable Claim 2 rewritten in independent form except for the "the lower part of which has a second width substantially equal to the sum of n times the first width of the first wiring structure [] and (n - 1) times the first interval" feature of base Claim 1. However, the absence of this feature is not believed to effect the patentability since the allowable features of Claim 2 do

¹ See M.P.E.P. 2163.06 stating that "information contained in any one of the specification, claims or drawings of the application as filed may be added to any other part of the application without introducing new matter."

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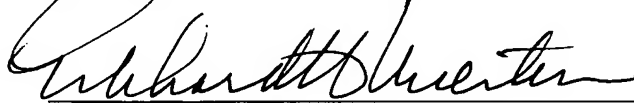
the allowable features of Claim 2 do not depend from this feature. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that Claims 21-31 are allowable.

Consequently, in view of the present amendment, no further issues are believed to be outstanding in the present application, and the present application is believed to be in condition for formal Allowance. A Notice of Allowance for Claims 1, 3-11, and 21-31 is earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner deem that any further action is necessary to place this application in even better form for allowance, the Examiner is encouraged to contact Applicant's undersigned representative at the below listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

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